

App. No. 10/520,330
Office Action Dated January 16, 2007

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IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Claims 1 and 9 are amended.

Claims 12-13 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for testing peritoneal function in order to evaluate a condition of a peritoneal dialysis patient, comprising the steps of:

repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having ~~different osmotic pressures~~ a higher osmotic pressure and a lower osmotic pressure;

analyzing the drain fluid in order to assess both an amount of the peritoneal dialysis fluid that is retained within the abdominal cavity of a patient, and a concentration of monitored solutes in the peritoneal dialysis fluid for each time of the fluid drain;

performing a peritoneal equilibrium test with respect to the peritoneal dialysis patient, by infusing a dialysis fluid, repeating predetermined times at predetermined time intervals draining of the dialysis fluid, sampling some of the drained fluid, returning the drained fluid to the patient, and then draining the dialysis fluid; and

performing a blood test in order to assess concentrations of the monitored solutes a ~~change in condition in the blood due to performing fluid infusion and fluid drain;~~

wherein the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed at least three times for each of the dialysis fluids of the respective osmotic pressure, a dwell time from when the

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dialysis fluid is infused until when the dialysis fluid is drained being set to be different each time when using dialysis fluid having the same osmotic pressure,

the repetition of the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed in the order such that the dialysis fluid of the higher osmotic pressure is used for the first and the last times, and the dialysis fluid used for each of the other times is determined so that the dialysis fluid of the higher osmotic pressure is not continuously used,

the step of performing the blood test is executed only once; and

the peritoneal equilibrium test is performed last of all the steps, and the blood test is performed immediately before the peritoneal equilibrium test, or is performed during the peritoneal equilibrium test.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 1,

wherein the monitored solutes for assessing peritoneal function are total protein, albumin, glucose, creatinine, urea, sodium, and chlorine.

4. (ORIGINAL) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 3, wherein the albumin concentration of the drain fluid is extrapolated based on the total protein concentration of the drain fluid.

5-8. (CANCELED)

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9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The~~ A method for testing peritoneal function in order to evaluate a condition of a peritoneal dialysis patient, comprising the steps of:

repeatedly performing fluid infusion and fluid drain of a predetermined amount of peritoneal dialysis fluid in alternation for peritoneal dialysis fluids having ~~different osmotic pressures~~ a higher osmotic pressure and a lower osmotic pressure;

analyzing the drain fluid in order to assess both an amount of the peritoneal dialysis fluid that is retained within the abdominal cavity of a patient, and a concentration of monitored solutes in the peritoneal dialysis fluid for each time of the fluid drain;

performing a peritoneal equilibrium test with respect to the peritoneal dialysis patient, by infusing a dialysis fluid, repeating predetermined times at predetermined time intervals draining of the dialysis fluid, sampling some of the drained fluid, returning the drained fluid to the patient, and then draining the dialysis fluid; and

performing a blood test in order to assess concentrations of the monitored solutes a ~~change in condition in the blood due to performing fluid infusion and fluid drain;~~

wherein the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed at least three times for each of the dialysis fluids of the respective osmotic pressure, a dwell time from when the dialysis fluid is infused until when the dialysis fluid is drained being set to be different each time when using dialysis fluid having the same osmotic pressure,

the repetition of the fluid infusion and the fluid drain is performed in the order such that the dialysis fluid of the higher osmotic pressure is used for the first and the last times, and the dialysis fluid used for each of the other times is determined so that the dialysis fluid of the higher osmotic pressure is not continuously used.

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the step of performing the blood test is executed only once; and

the blood test is performed last of all steps, and the peritoneal equilibrium test is performed immediately before the blood test.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 9,

wherein the monitored solutes for assessing peritoneal function are total protein, albumin, glucose, creatinine, urea, sodium and chlorine.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method for testing peritoneal function according to claim 10,

wherein the albumin concentration of the drain fluid is extrapolated based on the total protein concentration of the drain fluid.

12-13. (CANCELED)